

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 H-03 DOTE-00

OTPE-00 COA-02 INT-08 IO-14 DRC-01 /211 W

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R 281115Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7308

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 2422

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, XY

SUBJ: CEAO EXPERTS MEETING

1. FIRST MEETING OF CEAO EXPERTS HELD IN OUAGADOUGOU
NOVEMBER 21-24. DELEGATES FROM MEMBER STATES OF UPPER
VOLTA, MALI, SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, MAURITANIA, NIGER
PLUS OBSERVER FROM TOGO IN ATTENDANCE. MAIN TOPICS
ON AGENDA WERE TECHNICAL MATTERS RELATED TO STATIS-
TICS AND CUSTOMS PLUS LIVESTOCK MATTERS. MEMBERS DIS-
CUSSED POSSIBLE WAYS TO ESTABLISH COMMON TARIFF
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SCHEMES AND LIVESTOCK MARKETING PROGRAM.

2. OPENING SESSION PRESIDED OVER BY VOLTAN MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE, GARANGO, WHO MADE BRIEF WELCOMING SPEECH. NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL OF CEAO, CHEIKH FALL (SENEGAL) DELIVERED MAIN ADDRESS WHICH EMPHASIZED NECESSITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES WORKING TOGETHER FOR HARMONIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON MARKET. FALL ALLUDED TO PREVIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH LED TO DOWNFALL OLD UNION DOUANIÈRE AND ASKED DELEGATES TO AVOID MAKING SAME MISTAKES. FALL TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON DROUGHT AND URGED MEMBERS TO COME UP WITH CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS FOR RELIEF AND RECOVERY.

3. FALL ANNOUNCED THAT NEXT MEETING OF CEAO WOULD BE HELD IN FEBRUARY, 1974, AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. DURING NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS WILL HOLD MEETINGS ON PROBLEMS OF STATISTICS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND FISHING.

4. LITTLE WAS SAID ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CEAO AND EXISTING REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT AGENDA ON LIVESTOCK WAS PREPARED BY ENTENTE LIVESTOCK COUNCIL. FALL SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN "MANDATED" TO STUDY PROBLEM OF COORDINATION AND COOPERATION AMONG VARIOUS ENTITIES. FINAL REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING.

5. COMMENT:ALTHOUGH DELEGATES MADE SOME PROGRESS ON MATTERS OF COMMON CUSTOMS AND STATISTICAL SYSTEMS (ONE DELEGATE SAID MEMBERS ADOPTED ELC WORKING PAPER VIRTUALLY INTACT) LARGER ISSUES SUCH AS BROADER MEMBERSHIP WERE LEFT UNTouched, PRESUMABLY UNTIL MINISTERIAL MEETING. FALL TOLD US HE IS PLANNING TRIP TO U.S. LATER THIS YEAR. HOPES TO VISIT AFRO-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK AND MEET WITH AID/ STATE OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON.EASUM

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